

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**January 10, 2018**

**8:00PM**

**CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Ostrander called the meeting to order and led the Salute to the Flag.

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 4, 2018. Notice was advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 7, 2018.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston, Paul Ostrander

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; James Biegen, Township Engineer; Nancy Erlston, Township Clerk

**BUSINESS**

**Township Water & Sewer Engineer**

- **Current Estimate No. 3 for Water Treatment Plant Upgrades**

Administrator Brook said this was reviewed by the Water & Sewer Engineer and the Director of Water & Sewer. They recommend proceeding with the payment. It will be on the next agenda for authorization to process the payment.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to proceed with the payment process. All ayes.

**Township Engineer**

- **Result of bid for 111 Norman Avenue, Structure Demolition, Removal and Site Restoration**

Engineer Biegen said there were four bids received. There were some issues with the bidding process. He would like to discuss it further in a closed session.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to convene a closed session to discuss the bids. All ayes.

**Assistant Municipal Administrator**

Nothing at this time.

**Township Administrator**

- **Tilton Lane – Hamilton Avenue to End – Request for No Parking**

Administrator Brook said this section is extremely narrow. A resident reached out to the Police Department about making it no parking there. Administrator Brook said Police Chief Brian Boldizar went to the site to look and talk to the resident. Chief Boldizar did visit and spoke to one of the neighbors on Delaware Avenue. The neighbor said it is difficult for her to pull out of her driveway when people park on Tilton Lane. It is only fifteen feet wide and the average vehicle is six to seven feet. It doesn't leave much clearance. Chief Boldizar's recommendation was to install signs and present an ordinance for no parking. If Council was in agreement an ordinance would be prepared for the February agenda and the residents would be notified. All were in agreement to proceed.

- **JIF Update**

Administrator Brook explained the township participates in a joint insurance fund, or JIF. The JIF encourages wellness and safety programs. There is a safety contract every year. There was a surprise POSHA Inspection at the end of December. David Lebak contacted the Safety Director of the JIF and asked for additional training. There was forklift training that was required, along with some other safety issues. A six-hour session was held today to meet the requirements for POSHA. The JIF also wants to be sure the governing body is kept aware of safety and wellness. Once a year Mr. Lebak gives a presentation to keep everyone aware. It is very important.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to move forward with signing the JIF contract. All ayes.

- **Mosquito Spraying**

Every year the County sends a notice about mosquito spraying and a contract to execute. The spraying is usually done in the summer. He wanted to let Council know the township will sign the agreement and send it back within a few days.

- **Amendment to Flood Management Ordinance**

Administrator Brook said Solicitor Grant will be providing an ordinance that amends the ordinance that was recently adopted. There was a particular citation that state would like the township to adjust. It is a minor change but it will satisfy the DEP and the requirement will be met.

- **Spending Cap Ordinance**

The Chief Financial Officer will be preparing an ordinance for the next meeting. When there is a municipal budget there are items that are considered to be inside the cap and those that are outside of the cap. All of the items outside of the cap have no limit and they are primarily debt service related. The state stipulates that items inside the cap cannot increase more than a certain amount every year. Florence Township, like many other municipalities, adopts an ordinance that gives the capability to go to the maximum of the cap. It doesn't mean the township reaches the max, but if it isn't done and for some reason there are additional expenses incurred this year they would not be covered. It will be introduced at the next meeting.

- **Weiss Redevelopment Plan**

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Administrator Brook said the township will be proceeding with the ordinance for this plan. It went to the Planning Board in December and the board authorized moving forward. The ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting and will be adopted at the first meeting in February.

### **Mayor**

- **Dog Park Committee**

Mayor Wilkie said dog parks have been discussed for a number of years. He noted the park in Bordentown was created through donations. He has had people inquire about a dog park and he requested they do some research and then discuss it with him. Only one person ever did and said they would never ask for a dog park again. Some people have created pseudo dog parks by using fenced in areas such as retention basins. Mayor Wilkie said he is the owner of two dogs he understands the concerns people have about their dogs getting exercise. He presented a slide show of other dog parks he has seen and different things other towns have done. Some examples were locks with codes, double fencing and an information area where notices could be posted and information shared.

Councilman Lovenduski suggested the best way to start the process would be to create a committee of seven or eight people and think about some of the problems that would need to be solved. Some issues would be finding a location, how it would be funded, what kind of fencing would be used, what size it would be, would water be available, what would the parking situation be, rules and enforcement, insurance requirements and other issues. Once some of these questions are answered it could possibly move forward. He has spoken to George Ondusko, the Animal Control Officer, and he said the park in Bordentown seems to be very successful. He also spoke to David Klenk, who is a park ranger, and he said the one in Delanco seems to be working well. There is also a new one in Moorestown that seems to be doing well also. Councilman Lovenduski suggested finding some of the answers first and then have an open meeting for residents to come and voice their concerns and their ideas. This provides everyone with the opportunity to be heard and present new ideas.

He said it seems many municipalities are trying to provide dog parks for their residents. It is an off-leash area. Right now, there are many people walking their dogs off leash. It is difficult because there is really no where for them to go. Once the township provides the area and there is somewhere for them to go it would be easier to enforce the leash laws. It will also make it a safer community. There were some instances where children were bitten by dogs that were not on leashes.

He said he plans to put together the committee over the next few weeks. He has been talking to a few people who might be interested. He will set up a meeting to get started and hopes to meet two or three times to answer some of the questions and get some of the work done. He would then like to have the opening meeting. He would like to have some kind of proposal put together for the spring to bring to Council.

Council President Ostrander asked if he had any sites in mind. Councilman Lovenduski said he was considering Roebling because in that area the residents don't really have yards. There is also parking at the end of Second Avenue and water is available. The EPA is going to be releasing

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another section to give access off the end of Second Avenue. Councilman Sandusky inquired about the manpower to maintain the park. Councilman Lovenduski said many times there are volunteers who clean up the parks. Other places close it on a certain day and time and have employees perform the maintenance at that time. Many times, the volunteers and people who really enjoy the dog park seem to invest in it and will police it and help clean it up. This is what municipalities hope would happen. There becomes a dog park community where the people who use it are taking care of it and take ownership of it. They want it to be nice.

Mr. Ondusko said that is the case at the Bordentown dog park. There is a large group of people that use the park all the time and they keep it maintained. Many people bring chairs and sit and relax while their dogs are running. There really haven't been any issues with the dogs. There are rules and regulations posted and there are numbers to call for Animal Control. The Public Works Department cuts the grass and keeps the weeds in check. People from other communities also come to use the park. There is a double fence at the facility and some of the Public Works employees made some obstacles for the dogs. People are always donating to the park. It also helps to keep licensing current. It is used all year round, there were people there recently with their dogs in the snow. It is a good park and the community appreciates it. The dogs need the space to run and it provides that service to them.

### **ABC License Renewal – Special Rulings Received for Inactive Licenses**

- Vito in Florence, LLC
- F&A, Inc.

Clerk Erlston said she wanted to let Council know these were the last two licenses for the 2017-2018 renewals that needed to be issued. The township had to wait for the license holders to receive their special rulings. Vito in Florence, LLC used to be the Illusions license and F&A, Inc. was the Downtown Tavern. Both are now pocket licenses. The rulings are for two years so the renewal for next year will go smoothly. The resolutions will be on the next agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, said if the township is interested in providing a dog park, someone should go to Rosedale Dog Park in Pennington. It is also on the municipality's website. It has been there for three years. It is the best that he has ever seen in terms of equipment that the dogs use. It is very large. The rules are also available online. He suggested having equipment for the dogs so they don't just run.

It was the Motion of Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public comment. All ayes.

8:23 PM It was the Motion of Lovenduski seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to Closed Session. All ayes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

9:26 PM MOTION of Lovenduski and seconded by Woolston to adjourn to closed session. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston  
Township Clerk  
/aek